(b) the amount spent on their development and maintenance was as under:

Year	Amount spent (Rs. in lakh)
1996-97	2253.74
1997-98	2713.10
1998-99	3503.18

(c) The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and is being looked after within the available resources.

Overcrowding in Ferry Services at Okha Port

566. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the port authorities exercise any control on the ferry services between the Okha Port and Bet Dwaraka;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing excessive over-crowding on such boats; and

(c) whether Government would take early preventive action before any tragedy takes place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. The Central Government does not exercise any control on the ferry services between Okha Port and Bet Dwaraka.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.